Notification of the 86th Amendment to the Constitution

322. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the 86th Amendment to the Constitution has not yet been implemented which was enacted five years ago; and

if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Constitutional (Eighty-sixth) Amendment Act, 2002 notified on 13th December, 2002, inserted Article 21A in the Constitution, which provides that *"the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine"*. Section 1(2) of the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act provides that *'it shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint'*. The notification has not yet been issued pending enactment of the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21 A.

Percentage of drop-outs

323. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

what is the percentage of drop-outs at primary school level and secondary school level during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 for boys and girls;

the reasons for school drop-outs; and

the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Latest data available on drop-out rates is for the year 2004-05. The percentage of drop-outs from primary to secondary stage for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Primary Stage (Classes I-V)	34.9	31.5	29.0
Elementary Stage (Clases I-VIII)	52.8	52.3	50.8
Secondary Stage (Classes I-X)	62.6	62.7	61.9

The socio-economic and school related factors affect drop-outs.

A multi-prolonged approach has been adopted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop-out rates. These include, *inter alia,* strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, interventions under SSA also aim at building

community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid-day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce drop-out rates.

Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored Scheme for Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality of Education at Secondary Stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. Besides, it is also proposed to set up 6,000 good quality secondary schools at block level, at the rate of one school in each block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area. It has also been decided to implement various incentive schemes like (i) 'National Means cum Merit Scholarship', (ii) a national incentive scheme for girls to pursue secondary education, and (iii) a scheme for girls' hostels for girls studying in secondary classes; which would also help in reducing drop-out rates.

Clustering of higher education institutions

324. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be plesed to state:

whether the UGC is pursuing the project of clustering higher education institutions with the objective of optimum utilization of the existing facilities;

if so, in how many States the project is under implementation and what are they;

whether any of the institutions in Andhra Pradesh are covered under the said project;

if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays disbursed during the last three years, year-wise; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Women university in all States

325. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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whether it is proposed to open a women university in all the States;

if so, the status thereof *inter alia,* indicating the time-frame within which it would be established in Orissa;

whether the VCs have made a suggestion for decentralization of administration of universities to control delays in decision-making; and

if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.